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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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1952 NOV 24 PM 3 43

FROM : AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DESP. NO.

November 18, 1952
DATE

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - November 3 - 15, 1952

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POLITICAL

Local political scene has been very quiet over the past two weeks. Most of central ministers either on tour or at their homes. Minister NWAPA (Commerce and Industries) has just returned from tour of Northern Region - his first visit that area. Admitted to reporting officer he had had no idea importance and problems of North. Says North making excellent progress. Two ministers from North touring Eastern Region for first time.

Action Group leader AWOLOWO in India. Speeches seem indicate he inflating Nigerian national status his party. Also overdoing reports undeveloped wealth Nigeria.

New Action Group Campaign in East

Reliable reports indicate AG plans Eastern Region recruitment drive soon. Most adherents that region now transplanted Yorubas. Chief Bode THOMAS (Minister of Transport) will head touring group party brass. No indications AG will be successful in appealing to non-Yorubas in East.

Zik Lectures NCNC on Party Organization

AZIKIWE lectured NCNC Executive on need for party discipline, nature of a political party and necessity undying opposition to "foreign imperialism." More rabid elements party interpret speech as meaning NCNC'ers must not accept Ministries or offices in government. No mass exodus party men now in government expected. Will take more than speech to obtain NCNC party discipline.

Minister AKINTOLA - H. O. DAVIES Press Dispute

Small controversy launched by press statement H. O. Davies in re Nigerian independence. Davies says country can't have it just by shouting; pointed to necessary foreign operation of ports,

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airports, railway as evidence Nigeria not ready to take place in modern world. Action Grouper Akintola replied that "self-government does not mean self-sufficiency." Pointed to U. S. A. lack of industry in 1776 and said 1956 can still be deadline for Nigerian independence.

Western Government May Investigate P. W. D.

Parliamentary Council of Action Group decided Regional government should hold public inquiry into Western operations Public Works Department. AG hold PWD "extravagent," "wasteful," corrupt" and "incompetent." Party suggests scrapping PWD if necessary.

Northern Legislatures' Next Meetings

Reported that Northern House of Chiefs may meet February 10, 1953 and House of Assembly January 15, 1953.

OGOLOMA LAND DISPUTE results in arrest on four charges of rioting and arson of 45 Okrikans. Persons not Okrikan, Calibari or of Bonny clan debarred from using land in the area for purposes connected with fishing or fish-curing except under special license.

BODE THOMAS, Minister of Transport, says Government now examining ways of training Nigerians as pilots. Statement made at ceremonies at Lagos Airport marking introduction of new, four motored Marathon aircraft on West African runs.

ATTORNEY GENERAL plans presentation of bill defining and clarifying powers, privileges and immunities of Nigerian Legislative Houses and Legislators during next session of House of Representatives.

WEST AFRICAN PILOT publishes London report of protest of Labour MPs to U. S. Government on treatment by New York Immigration Officials of colored colonial leaders from the West Indies and Africa. Protest that U. S. is in effect screening petitioners travelling to UN.

OBA ADELE II CONFIRMED AS RIGHTFUL TENANT OF TRADITIONAL PALACE OF OBA OF LAGOS. West African Court of Appeals upholds ruling of Nigeria Supreme Court that Iga Idunganran is not property of descendants of King Docemo of Lagos, but instead of the duly recognized Oba of Lagos. Prince Adeyinka OYEKAN of House of Docemo and four other Docemo appelants rejected in bid for property. Minor rioting broke out the next day in the area of the Iga.

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ECONOMIC

Ibadan Cannery Re-Opened

After closing early this year from lack of fruit supplies, cannery now operating again. Plans afoot to add products used, thus operating all year.

Eastern Region Government Pay Increases

Daily wage earners employed by Eastern government given 30% wage increase. Raises not apply to Native Authority employees.

Nigeria to Stay Out of B. I. F.

Council of Ministers decides Nigeria not to have exhibit at British Industries Fair. Opposition feels Nigeria needs advertisement furnished and that diminishing demand for Nigerian goods may someday call for advertisement. Ministers state results from B. I. F. stand do not justify costs.

Nigerians Warned of Price Slump

Responsible officials have warned Nigerians that Marketing Boards may have to cut palm kernel, palm oil and cocoa prices next year. World prices going down and boards' funds can only absorb part of probable drop. Many have felt price honeymoon just about over already. There is evidence to effect local politicians unready to accept diminishing material revenue as fact.

Visitors

Mr. J. L. FISHER, "adviser to the Bank of England," is in Nigeria at invitation of Council of Ministers to discuss establishment of a "Central Bank of Nigeria" to hold a position similar to that of the Bank of England in the UK.

Professor JANSEN of Dutch Delft University scheduled to arrive this month to study the water-navigational problems at Sobo, Lokoja and Forcados. Mr. C. A. DOVE, to head the Nigeria Port Authority when formed, now touring ports in the East, studying "preliminary details."

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